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**The Government of the United States, National, State, and Local.** By William Bennett Munro, Ph.D., LL.B., Professor of Municipal Government in Harvard University. New York: Macmillan Company, 1919. Pp. x, 648.

This is a book that will be welcomed by both teacher and student. There are not many satisfactory one-volume works on United States government; there are few, if any, that surpass this one in presentation, arrangement, and treatment of the subject. The author has been eminently successful in accomplishing his purpose, which has been "not only to explain the form and functions of the American political system, but to indicate the origin and purpose of the various institutions, to show how they have been developed by law or by usage, to discuss their present-day workings, merits, and defects, and to contrast the political institutions of the United States with analogous institutions in other lands." One of the chief merits of the volume is its excellent treatment of the history of American political institutions and its clear exposition of the principles which these institutions are assumed to exemplify. The references throughout are well selected from among the best and latest authorities on the subjects discussed, and are not so numerous as to deter the student from further reading. The *format*, too often neglected in the preparation of text-books, is all that could be desired; the type is just the proper size, the marginal guide-notes are useful, and the index, in addition to the usual entries of topics, persons, and places, also lists the bibliographical references of the book.

Well-proportioned chapters on English and Colonial Origins, Preliminaries of National Government, and the Constitution and its Makers, with their story told without too much detail, are followed by an excellent discussion of the Constitution as the supreme law of the land and of its subsequent development. The arrangement (p. 46) in parallel columns of ten general powers given by the Constitution to the federal government and the same number of powers left largely or wholly to the jurisdiction of the states, is well designed to aid the student by this method of contrast. It brings home the thought, also, that at least three functions of state government are today tending toward federal control, viz., police power, education, and suffrage.

In the usual order follow chapters dealing with the history and function of the three branches of the federal government, the construction of state government and the later-day movements towards its reconstruction, chapters on the rule of towns, townships, and villages; and finally a discussion of municipal administration, the last being a brief condensation of the same author's earlier work on this subject. Interlarding the treatment of these matters are discussion of arguments on both sides of controverted questions and expressions of a political philosophy that is safe, conservative, and to the point. Questions are dealt with in the light of judicial decisions, citations are wisely and definitely made, the style is always clear, and the conclusions sound. The young citizen's faith in his country will be strengthened by a study of this book.

The history of the presidency is made to fall into four periods: From Washington to John Quincy Adams, from Jackson to Buchanan, from Lincoln to Arthur, and from Cleveland to Wilson. During this last period, "the presidency neither rose to the heights of the first period nor descended to the depths of the second." The author's discussion of the Senate in American history has a timely interest, especially as it is brought to a close in the words of President Wilson, written in 1911: ". . . No body has been more discussed; no body has been more misunderstood and traduced. . . . The fact is that it is possible in your thought to make almost anything you please out of the Senate. . . . The Senate has, in fact, many characteristics, shows many faces, lends itself easily to no confident generalization". Of the treaty-making power of the Senate, Professor Munro says (p. 168): "It has held rash Presidents in bound. It has kept the nation on its course for one hundred and thirty years without a single entangling alliance. Of no other great country can that be said."

Especial mention should be made of the author's clarity in his explanation of congressional making of appropriations (pp. 302-311), of his discussion of political parties in national government (pp. 324-329), of his treatment of the historical development of the Supreme Court (pp. 357-370), and of his appraisal of the judicial system in the states (pp. 493-500). The chapters on Direct Legislation, dealing with the initiative, referendum, and

recall; on the Reconstruction of State Government, advocating fewer constitutional provisions, especially in the way of limitations, and less reverence for the formula of division of powers; and on the American City, show much thought and political acumen, and will be read with profit by the student of present-day tendencies in the government of city and state.

The teacher outside of Massachusetts will possibly complain that in the treatment of state and local government that commonwealth is too generally taken for example. To describe the variations of governmental machinery in every state and community would not be possible within the scope of such a work, but while the author's method in this regard merits the gratitude of the Massachusetts teacher, the general value of the book to the teacher at large would not have been lessened by condensing this phase of the treatment so as to give only a few and more widely scattered examples.

The suggestion is also made that in the discussion of citizenship and the right to vote (pp. 78, 178), it would have been well to have named some of the states in which the suffrage qualifications mentioned are in force. The statement (p. 282, note) that "appointments to practically all post offices are now made under civil service rules" is too sweeping, especially if postmasters are included; assessments during political campaigns on office-holders, which it is maintained (p. 339) are now things of the past, are still made in many sections, and only those who have no hope of future political favor dare refuse; and in Pennsylvania, at least, county commissioners are chosen by the voters at large (see p. 549).

When much of the legislation made for war purposes only is repealed, a new edition of this work will be necessary. Then the history of the woman's suffrage movement will no doubt be carried forward to include the efforts towards constitutional amendment in its favor, and then also it is to be hoped that a reprint of the Constitution will be appended, the omission of which is a real defect.

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